

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview granted to applicants. Applicants understand that with this amendment that the application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner discounted certain limitations of the claim on the premise that the claim element was a "method limitation, and thus does not constitute a limitation in an apparatus claim". The claimed feature said to be a method limitation was "providing an actuator for moving the sweeper brush into engagement with the casting roll near the beginning and end of each casting run and disengaging from the casting roll during normal casting operation and providing an actuator for moving the main brush into engagement with the casting roll surface at least during normal casting operation". Official action at 3. As respectfully pointed out during the interview and acknowledged, the independent claims 1 and 12 do not have this quoted claim language. Rather, claim 1 has "a sweeper brush actuator on one said mounting frame to move the sweeper brush independently of the main brush into engagement with the casting roll near the beginning and end of each casting run and disengaged from the casting roll to normal casting operation". Claim 12 provides "a sweeper brush actuator on the mounting frame to separately move the sweeper brush toward the casting roll at the start and end of the casting run and away from the casting roll during the production part of the casting run".

Claim 1 has been amended to make clearer the differences between the claimed subject matter and the primary Wood reference. In Wood the brushes 18 and 20 are moved into contact with the casting drum 10 together by the threads of rod 40 threadably engaging downwardly extending projection 44 (col. 3, ll. 20-21). Thereby, re-rotation of the rod 40 by handle 46 moves brush support block 48, either left or right as shown in Figure 1. (col. 3, ll. 21-23). The angle of the brushes in contact with the surface 16 is provided by rotation of handle 34. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Wood of an actuator which would provide for independent movement of one of the brushes into contact with the casting roll at the beginning and the ending of the casting operation. Rather, the fact that the brushes are moved in contact with the casting surface in unison indicates the brushes are intended to both function during the normal casting operation. There is no disclosure or suggestion by Wood to the contrary.

Accordingly, claims 1 to 19 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wood. Either independently alone or in combination with either Sadamitsu or Itaya et al. Applicants notes that the secondary references do not provide any disclosure to fill the gap between the Wood disclosure and applicants' claims. Sadamitsu discloses a photoreceptor cleaning apparatus

for an electrophotographic apparatus having a pair of rotating brushes closely engaged with the brush box and engaging the photosensitive drum. The brushes counter-rotate and the material swept from the photosensitive drum is swept away between the brushes through a filter bag within a suction box. There is no suggestion or disclosure that the brushes can be moved independently; to the contrary, the apparatus of this reference is premised upon the brushes counter-rotating in unison in contact with the photosensitive drum.

Itaya is similarly deficient for other reasons. This reference provides a brush cleaning device for electrophotographic reproduction apparatus wherein a fur brush is contacted as an image receptor for removing magnetic toner. There is only one brush in contact with the drum. The official action implicitly acknowledges the deficiencies of this reference, in that the reference only seems to be cited for the fact that a flicker member 4 is provided to release the toner from the rotating brush.

Accordingly, claims 1-19 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wood in view of either Sadamitsu or Itaya et al. Reconsideration in allowance of claims 1-19 is respectfully requested.

The examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned if there are any further issues that require resolution. Please charge the six-month extension of \$930.00, and any further fees which may be due in connection with this amendment to the undersigned counsel's deposit account 10-0435 with reference to our file 29385-68773. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully,

BARNES & THORNBURG.

By: 

James R. Sweeney II
Reg. No. 45670

11 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Telephone: (317) 231-7771